



Lockport and Niagara Falls Railroad.

This road has been leased for five years past at \$1,550 per annum, with the reserved right to claim it whenever it should be wanted by the company for the purpose of extension to Rochester, or to renew it with heavier rails. It has consumed the rent to pay the taxes and discharge debts incurred for surveys of the extension and other purposes. The length of the old road is 23 miles and of the extension to the Genesee river at Rochester 54 70-100; cost of construction of the old road \$210,000. No dividends have been made the last five years.

The whole capital for the old road and extension is fixed by the Legislature at \$1,200,000. Over \$950,000 has been subscribed for the extension. The masonry, grading and bridging, and completion of the road, ready for the superstructure, is under contract from Lockport to Rochester, and about \$25,000 has been expended for the extension. It is expected to have the whole ready for the iron within the coming year.

The income for the past year to the lessees has been \$13,000, principally from way passengers. The number of passengers, as nearly as can be ascertained, is—Through 30,000; way 20,000; United States mail, \$750; expenses of repairs \$6000; running expenses \$5000; number of miles run 36,000. Three locomotives on the road, six passenger cars, five freight cars, one baggage car. Average number of men employed on the road 20.

Railroad Accident and wonderful Escape.

As the the Boston and New Haven cars came into Thompsonville, Wednesday week, going at the rate of thirty miles per hour, from a misplacing of a switch the cars were thrown off the track, the engine passing safely on to the bridge, but weakening it so much that the tender and baggage car separated from it, and were precipitated through and dashed to pieces, and the first passenger car also pitched through the rear part sticking above the bridge. The chasm beneath the bridge is about forty feet, and wonderful to say, not a life was lost, though the car was filled with passengers. The engineer was slightly injured in jumping from the locomotive, while the fireman who remained on it was unhurt.

Singular and Fatal Accident.

The N. O. Picayune says that Mr. Henry Melbourn, a planter, residing in the parish of Avoyelles, on the Bayou Boef, was killed a few days since at his gin house in the most singular manner. He had just completed his gin and while examining some part of the running gear near the band wheel, his neck was caught between that and the lever, and his head almost completely severed from his body. Mr. Melbourn was about fifty years of age, a hard working man, and the father of a large family.

We publish accidents of this kind so as to warn those who are engaged among machinery to be careful of belts and running gear.

New Whaling Ground.

From Honolulu, Sandwich Isles, we learn that Capt. Royce, an American, of Sag Harbor, L. I. had just arrived with 1,800 barrels of oil which he took in the Arctic Ocean above Behring Straits. He found the seas clear of ice, plenty of Whales, and one a new kind. From the imperfect knowledge of the seas he had to be very cautious. He found the ocean there very shallow 14 and 35 fathoms, and he saw Indians crossing in their canoes regularly from Asia to the American continent. There can be no doubt but the two were once united then. Some interesting discoveries are yet to be made in that region.

One of the large establishments of Messrs. Hoe & Co. of this city, so well known, was burned down last week. The fire, however, does not stop their business, as they have other manufactories.

LITERARY NOTICES.

The March number of the Ladies National Magazine, comes to us laden with its usual variety of select and entertaining matter. The beautiful Mezzotint of "the Caliph's Daughter" by Gross, is truly one of the best and the expression of countenance tells the reader at once the meaning of the accompanying tale by Dana. It is only necessary to add that, the editorial charge is in the hands of Mrs. Ann S. Stephens. Terms \$2. C. J. Peterson Publisher, Philadelphia.

Morfit's Chemical and Pharmaceutic Manipulation.

This valuable work, noticed in No 20 "Scientific American" has brought to us such numerous enquiries, as to its value, that we have made arrangements, to supply orders. It contains a complete description of the most improved apparatus of the mechanical and chemical-mechanical operations of the Laboratory. It is a volume of 480 pages, illustrated by 423 engravings. Price \$2.50.

Can be sent by mail to any part of the U. S. Orders should be addressed (post paid) to Munn & Co.

Who owns the Legislature of Oregon.

A Methodist minister writing from Oregon, says that the legislature of that territory passed a resolution requesting the ministers of the place to serve as chaplains in rotation. The Catholic priest, having been of course included in the invitation, addressed the speaker and offered to officiate himself, but said that he would allow no one else to dictate a prayer to any of his people. "We have," said he, "authority to preach from the apostles; this is a political body, and can do its business without prayers, or each one who wishes it can pray silently; but some of my people are members of the body, and if any of these persons come here to dictate prayers to my people, I will not permit it," &c. The house then elected the Methodist minister as chaplain.

Magnetic Stone.

A brown stone, in no respect presenting anything by which it shall be distinguished from other rude stones around it, is found, upon close examination, to possess the power of drawing light particles of iron towards it. If this stone is placed upon a table, and iron filings are thrown lightly around it, we discover that these filings arrange themselves in symmetric curves, proceeding from some one point of the mass to some other; and upon examining into this, we shall find that the iron which has once clung to the point, will be rejected by the other. If this stone is freely suspended, we shall learn also that it always comes to rest in a certain position,—this position being determined by these points and some attractive force residing in the earth itself. These points we call its poles; and it is now established that this stone is but a weak representative of our planet. Both are magnetic; both are so in virtue of the circulation of currents of electricity, or of lines of magnetic force, as are seen in the curves formed by the iron dust, and the north pole of the one attracts the south pole of the other, and the contrary.

The stone is partly composed of an oxide of iron to which it owes its color.

Singular Case of Poisoning.

Within two weeks, says the Baton Rouge Advocate of the 24th ult. a whole family consisting of a Mr Goettger his wife and children, have died, in this vicinity, from accidental poisoning caused by drinking water of a well impregnated with copper, as has been proven, we understand, by an examination of the well, in which was found an old copper kettle.

Maine Lumber.

The Calais (Maine) paper of the 25th ult. speaks of very cold weather and very good sleighing, and adds that "the business doing by the teams in the woods never promised so fair a prospect of remuneration as it does now to those engaged in the lumbering business."

Salt.

The Onondaga Salt Springs have produced during the past year, 4,737,162 bushels of salt or 947,425 barrels. Is not this a gold mine?

Gold Leaf.

Mr. Editor.—In an article on the Manufacture of Gold Leaf in last week's Scientific American, there are a few slight errors which I presume you would like to correct with your accustomed accuracy. In the first place Gold for Leaf cannot be used fine. Deep Gold for frames &c. is about 23 carats, the lighter kind for books &c. from 18 to 24 carats according to the color required. Again, the gold is melted and poured in an ingot which if square and of the right width the anvil can be entirely dispensed with, it is then passed through a Rolling Mill until 50 dwts. is long enough to make 160 square pieces of about 1 1/4 inch, which goes through a process very similar to what you describe. The 160 pieces in the Vellum tool called Cutch, cut in four make 640, which are placed in a Skin tool (Shoder,) it is then cut in four again which fills 3 tools (Molds,) each holding 850 which when beat finishes the work except cutting and placing in books, which have ochre on them to prevent, instead of to cause the Gold to stick. Gold is only used fine by the Gold Beater for Dentists' Foil and for covering the bar for Wire drawing, for both of which purposes it only has to pass through 1 tool, the Vellum, the Gold being required thick. 1 oz. of gold makes about 2,300 leaves 3 3/8 in. square which would cover a surface of 160 square feet or a fraction under.

Respectfully yours,

J. H.

New York, Feb. 10, 1849.

Man Killed by a Catamount.

Mr. John Soule of Errol, N. H., who in company with two others, was hunting near Umbagog lake, went out one afternoon, some four weeks since, on the line of his traps, but not returning his companions started on his track next morning, and about a half a mile from the camp they found his body badly torn in pieces, and the tracks of two animals going from the place. From all appearance, Soule came across two catamounts in a tree some half a mile beyond where his dead body was found, and not daring to risk a shot, retreated backwards towards his camp, and had accomplished nearly half the distance, when he fell backwards over a log, and was leaped upon immediately by the catamounts. His rifle was by his side, loaded and cocked. His companions followed the tracks of the animals till they retreated in a circle, and, hearing them make a noise, became frightened, and gave up the chase.

Cotton Receipts at Savannah.

By the last weekly statement of the Republican the total receipts of cotton at that port from the 1st of September last to the 24th ult. was 185,566 bales against 65,333 during the corresponding period last year. This shows an increase in the receipts at that port altogether disproportioned to the relative extent of the crops of two years and gives evidence of a degree of prosperity in Savannah which cannot but gratify every true friend of the place.

The Western Rivers.

At Louisville, on the 25th ult, the river was at a stand with 9 feet 3 inches water in the Indian chute on the falls. It was rising at Madison the same day, from the Kentucky river, which was swelling.

All the villages along the banks of Green and Barren rivers have been overflowed, and the country roads rendered impassable. The steamer General Worth ascended and descended Green river by going over the tops of the dams.

In the vicinity of Memphis, bridges were swept away, the low grounds inundated, and the roads overflowed. A negro man and six mules were swept away in an attempt to cross Cane Creek, and all drowned.

The Dam at Hadley Falls.

Preparations have already been commenced for the re-building of the Dam at the New City.—It is to be of wood, of square timber. It will be built in a most substantial manner. The cheapest way in the end.

Temperance in Vermont.

The recent State Temperance Convention at Burlington, Vt. was characterized by much enthusiasm and determination, and the Temperance cause has thereby received a fresh impetus in the Green Mountain State.

The Snow Worm.

The National Intelligencer says: "We have been shown a letter from Professor Chester Dewey, of Rochester, N. Y. (addressed to a scientific gentleman of this city,) from which we learn that the snow in that region has recently been covered with worms varying from a quarter of an inch to an entire inch in length. We are also informed that a small worm of a dark color, and resembling a tiny bud or seed, was found upon snow in North Carolina during the last winter; and also that about two years ago a small worm of a scarlet hue was found on the snow in Tennessee."

Wealth of the Union.

It is estimated that the value of the crops in 1848 in the United States will exceed \$640,000,000. Value of live stock on farms is estimated at over \$557,000,000. The sums invested in manufactures for the same time amount to \$343,300,000. The sums invested in merchandise amount to \$344,000,000, exclusive of \$149,000,000 employed in the commission business and foreign trade. The aggregate of the productions and business of our country then, amounts to the enormous sum of more than \$2,000,000,000.

A Literary Prize.

The King of Bavaria has offered a prize of 100 ducats for the best essay on the subject, "By what means can the poverty of the lower orders of the inhabitants of Germany, and more especially of Bavaria, be most advantageously and permanently relieved." The essay are to be given in by the 31st of January next, and will be submitted for decision to a competent committee nominated by the King.

Iron Cottages.

Quite a number of Iron cottages have been built in this city and sent to Oregon. This is a good plan, as the houses in California will soon be more scarce than the inhabitants.—There is only one blacksmith's shop in San Francisco, and only two blacksmiths. One of them is our old friend Mr. Leddy, of Albany, N. Y., who is rapidly making gold out iron and hard blows. Well, no one deserves better success.

The Planter's (La.) Banner says; "There is great complaint among many of the planters in this vicinity of the condition in which they find their seed cane. Some estimate that one third of their cane is ruined. Much of it is hollow, with a sort of red coating on its interior surface, the joints have red streaks passing through them, and many of the eyes appear to be entirely destitute of vitality. If the cane generally proves to be in this condition, we may look out for short crops again next Fall."

Quite an extensive land slide occurred, at Natchez on the 20th ult., near the upper end of the promenade ground. A portion of the bluff, says the Courier, some 10 feet broad and 40 feet in length, detached itself very unceremoniously from its ancient resting place, and pitched down into the road beneath.

A Mr. Emmons was so severely wounded a short time ago in Philadelphia, by a knife breaking in one of Beer's machines when making 2000 revolutions per minute, that his limb had to be amputated in consequence thereof.

A correspondent of the London Lancet, says that nux vomica in small doses is a cure for dyspepsia. "He tried it himself," by the advice of a homœopathic physician, with perfect success.

Believing that the rice fields, in the vicinity of Savannah, were detrimental to the health of the city, the Mayor and Aldermen passed ordinances prohibiting the culture of rice within limits.

The price of cabin passage from Cincinnati to Pittsburg on the first class boats, is now \$7; to St. Louis \$9; and to New Orleans \$12a15. The rates, however, vary according to temporary circumstances.

Galvanized wire netting is sold in London, at one penny the square foot.

Fifteen million yards of calico are annually manufactured in this country.

There were 2,500,000 bales of cotton raised in the United States in 1848.